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PEACE PERFECT PEACE

Margaret Crawford Pearson



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PEACE PERFECT PEACE

AN EARNEST APPEAL TO CHRISTIANS TO SO
LIVE THAT THEY MAY ENJOY FULLY THE RICH
BLESSINGS OF GOD.

“Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed
on thee because He trusted in thee,”—Isaiah 26:3.

BY MRS. MARGARET CRAWFORD PEARSON

HARTFORD, CONN.

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To My Mother

MRS. MARY WHITESIDES CRAWFORD.

PREFACE

Having seen so many Christians, who do not enjoy deep spiritual blessings, and who do not have their hearts filled with the joy and peace of God; but who were living as it were on skimmed milk while they might be feasting on the rich cream of God's blessings; it has for a long time been my desire to be used by God, in helping others to live closer to Him, that they might enjoy more fully the blessings He has in store for them. So this little book is written, with a very earnest prayer that God may see fit to use it, and that He will bless it in such a way, that it will help others to consecrate themselves to Him, that they might enjoy the wonderful peace He wants to give each of His children.

I. THINGS THAT DO NOT BRING PEACE

How many people, even Christians, can say I have peace, perfect peace? If they cannot they are missing some of the greatest blessings that God has in store for them. They are living beneath the clouds, while they might be enjoying the brightness of the noonday sun. Our hearts cry out for peace and happiness. One of the greatest desires of the human nature, is to have the heart and life filled with an enduring peace, a peace that no storm can destroy or take away. It is possible to have this peace. We will first mention some of the things that will not give this peace.

The pleasures of the world, that so many are striving for, does not give peace. First Timothy 5:6. "But she that liveth in pleasure, is dead while she liveth." James 5:6. "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts as in the day of slaughter." Ecc. 2:1. "I said in my heart, go to now, I will prove thee with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasures: and behold this also is vanity." Just enjoying the pleasures that this world affords, does not bring peace. We are told, that when the children of Israel wanted a king that they might be like other nations, God gave them their request; but He sent leanness into their souls. So getting their desire did not bring peace into their souls, but rather leanness. This is the way with a great many people of today, they clamor for the things of the world, they want to be like others, they often get what they cry for; but they are not happy. "As you love your soul beware of the world: it has slain its thousands and ten thousands. What ruined Lot's wife? — the world. What ruined Achan? — the world. What ruined Haman? — the world. What ruined Judas? — the world. What ruined Simon Magus? — the world. What ruined Demas? — the world. 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'" "Hunters dig pits in the earth, then cover them over, and place a bait near them to attract the prey, that they may venture upon the treacherous place and fall in. Thus the devil makes this world his vault, which he strews over with pleasures and delights; the way seems smooth but it is slippery."

Riches do not give peace. Riches are spoken of as being deceitful. Mark 4:19. "And the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of the riches, and the lusts of other things, entering in choke the word and it becomes unfruitful." Prov. 23:4, 5. "Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." Matthew Henry says, "There is a burden of care in getting riches, fear in keeping them, temptation in using them, sorrow in losing them, and a burden of account at last to be given up concerning them." Jesus Christ did not have worldly riches, He was born in a stable, and for a number of years worked in a carpenters shop, He was often hungry and weary, Luke 9:58. "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." Jesus' example should be proof enough that our greatest happiness does not consist in the abundance of the things that we possess. We see also, that Christ's followers were men that did not care for this world's riches. Paul says in Phil. 3:7, 8. "But what things were gained to me those I counted lost for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but lost for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung that I may win Christ." Matt. 6:19-21. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is there will your heart be also." Jesus spoke of the dangers of riches in Mark 10:23-25. "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said unto them, children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." It is not the fact that a man has riches that keeps him from the kingdom of God, but the fact that he is trusting in the riches. It is very hard for a man who has riches not to set his heart on them and trust in them. Psalm 52:7. "Lo this is the man that made not God his strength, but trusted

in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness." Psalm 62:10. "Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery; if riches increase set not your heart on them." So few real rich men are converted, that it almost leads one to believe, that some men would have more religion and be happier, if they did not have so much money; for the more they trust in riches the farther they are getting away from real peace and happiness. A millionaire lay dying, and some one asked him what he would have sung, he replied sing "Come ye sinner poor and needy." He felt like he needed more than his millions to bring peace and happiness in the hour of death. "Riches are like beasts of burden carrying treasures all day long and at the night of death unladen they carry to their graves only the bruises and marks of their toil." A poor man on being told that a friend of his had been robbed of all he had lifted up his eyes to heaven and said "Lord thou knowest where I have laid up my treasure." He had laid up his treasure where no one, not even death could rob him. Sometimes a poor man will have his heart set on riches just as much as a rich man, and will spend his life trying to accumulate them; but he will fail to find true peace and happiness. If we spend our lifetime and energy just to get wealth for the sake of wealth; we have spent it for that which will not bring us the largest returns in souls satisfaction. Of course riches are very useful, when used aright, when we transmute them into life, and use them for the advancement of God's kingdom, for money is a channel, through which we can render service to God. "Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness that when it shall fail they may receive you into "everlasting habitations."

"It is good to have money,
And the things that money can buy,
But it is good, too, to check up now and then
And make sure you haven't lost
The things that money can't buy."

Education, even, does not bring peace. A man may have the best education that colleges and universities can give, from the standpoint of the world, and still have his heart filled with unrest and a longing for something else, a longing for something that the world cannot give. I think every man, every woman,

and every child should strive to get the best education possible; but they should not forget God, no matter how well they are educated. An education is not essential to a life of peace and happiness, for those who are not wise in the things of the world may be filled with the peace of God. So do not think that because you are not well educated, that you are denied these blessings. It is when we receive the spirit of God, and not the spirit of the world, that we enjoy these blessings. For God has hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes. I Cor. 1:25-27. "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than man; and the weakness of God is stronger than Man. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

The wicked do not have peace. Isaiah 48:42. "There is no peace saith the Lord to the wicked." Paul speaking of the wicked in Rom. 3:17 says, "The way of peace have they not known." Isa. 59:8. "The way of peace they have known not; and there is no judgment in their going; they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace." It is sin that brings unrest, that darkens our lives and homes. It is sin that destroys the beauty of our character, and murders our souls. Instead of the sinner having peace he is miserable, for misery follows sin, and sin itself is misery. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "The sting of death is sin." "Death hath passed upon all men for that all have sinned." Sin is a universal fact, although an unpleasant fact. The scriptures speak of sin as lawlessness or rebellion. There is a definition in the Westminster Shorter Catechism which says: "Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God." Thos. Guthrie says:—"Sin, sin, sin, thou art a hateful and horrible thing that abominable thing which God hates. And what wonder? Thou hast insulted His holy majesty; thou has bereaved Him of beloved children; thou has crucified the Son of His infinite love; thou hast vexed his gracious spirit; thou hast defied His power; thou hast despised His grace; and in the body and blood of Jesus, as if that was a common thing, thou hast trodden under foot His matchless mercy. Surely brethren, the wonder of wonders is that sin is not that abominable thing which we also hate." Prov. 14:13. "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." Sin in every day language is failing to measure up

to the best that is in us, and falling short of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Martin Luther says, "Sin is essentially a departure from God." If sin is a departure from God, it is impossible for us to have peace until we get back to God. So we have this wonderful promise: 1. John 2:1. "If any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." Jesus is the friend that has atoned for our sins, and delivered us from the power of sin, and through Him we find peace and happiness. The prodigal son did not have peace and happiness when he was wasting his substance in riotous living; it was not until he returned unto his father, that he found peace and happiness.

"No peace or lasting rest
Earth's flattering joys impart;
The portion of a beast
Will not content my heart.
The God of spirits only can
Fill up the vast desire of man."

II. SPIRITUAL THINGS BRING PEACE.

We have seen that it is not the things of the world, that bring a life of peace. It is when we separate ourselves from the things of the world, that we begin to enjoy this life of peace. First Cor. 15:36. "That which thou soweth is not quickened except it die." This is the law of nature, the body of the seed must perish in the ground, that it may be able to live, and produce a greater harvest, so the things of self and love for the world must die, that we may enjoy the greater blessings in Christ Jesus. Gal. 2:20. "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live: yet not I but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Parting with the old means growth with the new. This change of heart can only be brought about by the new birth or conversion. Our hearts must be changed before they can become attuned to spiritual melodies. Our first duty is to come to Jesus that we might be born again. "Conversion is the act of joining our hands to the pierced hands of the crucified Saviour; the new life begins with the taking of Christ's hand, and His taking hold in infinite love of our weak hands." D. L. Moody says, "A man to be converted has to give up his will, his ways, and his thoughts." Every man or woman who comes to Christ must remember that they are breaking with their old master and working under a new master. "Animals could not converse with men unless they had a rational nature put into them; nor can men converse with God until, being made new creatures, they partake of the divine nature. Communion with God is a mystery to most. Not every one that hangs about the king's court doth speak with the king; only those who are near to him by a peculiar relationship are privileged."

A tiny babe has life, but it does not have a matured and useful life like a grown person. A babe would not be content to just have life, and always remain helpless, but it longs to grow and develop into a more and more useful life. So in the christian life we should not be satisfied with the life, that becomes ours at the moment of the new birth; but should long and strive to

grow in spiritual things, just as a babe grows physically. Jesus says, in John 10:10. "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." Jesus did not intend that his followers should be satisfied with just life, but He wants them to have the more abundant life. When a babe does not grow physically we become uneasy about it, and begin consulting the physician; we try to find the reason and remedy the cause. While some Christians remain babes in Christ, for a number of years, and do not think seriously about it. They do not realize to be a dwarf in spiritual things is worse than to be a physical dwarf. First Peter 2:1-3. "Wherefore laying aside all malice and guile and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speaking, as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that he may grow thereby; if so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." We see the taking of God means the putting away of sin, and the more we appreciate God the more we will depreciate sin, and the things of the world. But this thing of laying aside or unlearning things is not an easy task. "Unlearning is the most difficult of all learning." Paul tells how it can be done: "Col. 3:8-10. "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him: where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian Sythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all." It is when by faith we put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and become clothed in His righteousness, His love, and His strength that we begin to lay aside or put off the things that are evil. When we have put on the new man, we can begin to put off the old man. And the more we learn of the new man, the more we will unlearn the things of the old man. Romans 6:11. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." The sins that are in the world, and that the Christian must come in contact with, should not get any more response from him than if he were a corpse. While he is compelled to see and hear sin, he cannot afford to respond to it, his whole life should stand out in opposition to that which is sinful. "Christ is not sweet till sin be made bitter to us."

Matt. 5:48. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." We should strive to be perfect, for unless we strive we will not reach anywhere. Seek that ye may excel. Paul says, Phil. 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." There is no termination without determination. We should not only wish for peace and happiness, but we should strive for those things that make for peace and happiness; we should make our back bone stronger than our wish bone. The world is full of wrecks, who, said great things could not be done, that certain heights could not be reached. So in the Christian life, there are many babes in Christ, because they say that certain heights in spiritual things cannot be reached. They are not willing to strive, and to pay the price of growing and becoming stronger, and enjoying more fully the blessings that are in store for them; but are willing to always remain a babe in Christ. When we undertake anything worth while, we are apt to find many obstacles in the way; but the more obstacles we overcome, the stronger we become. Every true Christian should have such a strong desire for great spiritual blessings, that they will be willing to make any sacrifice that these blessings might be obtained. "It is not with a rush and a spring that we are to reach Christ character, and attain to perfect saintship; but step by step, foot by foot, hand over hand, we are slowly and often painfully to mount the ladder that rests on earth and rises to heaven." The Christian life is like a warfare. Eph. 6:11. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." As soldiers of Christ the Ephesians were told to fight under the Lord's banner against Satan, the world, and sin. They were not strong enough for the battle alone, so must be strong in the Lord, by depending on His mighty power for portection and help. We today are also unable in our own strength, to overcome our spiritual enemies; but God has provided a suit of armour for every child of His. By prayer and faith this armour can be put on every day, that we may be prepared for every conflict, that awaits us and resist every foe.

The Christian life is compared to a race. Heb. 12:1, 2. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." One who runs a race does not stand still, but makes progress. So the Christian should be continually making progress. Notice the race is set for us, God has already planned our race, we are not to choose our own course; but follow His plan. There is something vitally wrong with the Christian who is standing still, and not making any advances in his life. Are there not a good many Christians, that are so well satisfied where there are; that they have forgotten, that there is such a thing as moving forward? Christians should continue to ask themselves, have I advanced any today, and am I any farther on than I was a year ago, than I was five or ten years ago? Am I growing more Christ-like each day? Am I enjoying sweeter communion with Him than I did a year ago? Is my heart filled with a greater peace than it was five years ago? We are told how to make progress. By laying aside every weight and sin. We know that a person can run faster and with a great deal more ease, if they are not weighted down. The reason that a great many christians do not make any more progress than they do, is because they are not willing to lay aside weights and sins, they are so heavily loaded that they cannot run very fast. We must lay aside every weight and every sin, no matter what it may be, if it hinders our progress. This may mean parting with things we love, giving up things that have become dear to us, it may mean self denial on every side; but we need not expect to grow in the christian life without some self sacrifice. For as we advance step by step in the christian life, it means that we must continually give up things that belong to self. As our affections for heavenly things increase, our love for the things of this world must decrease; the more we learn to depend on His strength to help us advance the less we will depend on our own strength; and the more we work for Him, the less we will think of working for self. The laying aside these weights and sins is not an easy task, but we are to look to Jesus, it is only by looking to Him that we are able to lay aside these things. We are not able in our own strength, but as we look to Him He will strengthen us. As our hearts are emptied of self, He will fill them with Himself, and things that seem so hard will become easy; and we will see that the laying aside the things of the old man, has enabled us to become more like the new man in Christ Jesus. And our hearts will then be filled with His joy and His Peace. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

III. GOD THE FATHER AND PEACE.

The soul cannot find rest and peace outside of the heavenly Father, God alone can give soul rest and peace that will be secure. First Tim. 3:16. "Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace, always by all means the Lord be with you all." 1. Cor. 1:3. "Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ." The soul has an appetite for God, like the body for food. Sometimes this appetite is not so strong, because of sin; just as the physical appetite is not so strong, when there is something wrong with the body. When man is willing to put away sin, he will find his desire for God growing stronger and stronger. He will find that God will become, everything to him, as the world and the things of the world become nothing. Psalm 42:1. "As the hart panteth after the waters brook, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" One time a king and his men were crossing a desert in a caravan, their thirst became very great. All along the road there were skeletons of men, who had died of thirst. The men began to cry water, water, there is no water; everything looked hopeless as they viewed the skies, with the sun shining hot upon them. Then some one said we must let loose the harts, the light fleet harts, the harts being so keen in their instincts for water that a spring was soon found; and as they sat around the spring to rest and quench their thirst, the king took his tablet and wrote, "As the hart panteth after the waters brook so panteth my soul after Thee O God." The fact that the soul cries out for God is evidence that God lives and loves.

Psalm 103:13. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." We know something of a father's or a mother's love for their children, and how they long to give them the best things in life; so does the Lord love His children and wants to give them the best things; the things that will make for peace and happiness. If we fully realize that He gave us His only begotten Son; we will know that He loves us, and will not withhold anything that will be for our good and

His glory. Our heavenly Father wants us, He long for us to come to Him, just as a loving parent wants their wayward children to return to them. We may not always be able to see God's love, as we are passing through trials, but He still loves us and will not forget us. Romans 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are called according to His purpose." We have a good illustration of the Father's love in the parable of the prodigal son. The Father loves His child so much that He goes to meet him when he is a great way off, and has a feast prepared for him; and has the best robe put on him, and a ring put on his hand and shoes on his feet. So with our heavenly Father, He give the best that he has to his children when they come to Him. "Christ reveals God as a father. In His first and last words Christ calls Him Father. As a father God thinks of us, loves us, works for us, cares for us, protects us, provides for us in the future. Father is the most endearing appellation in which He is made known to us. 'I should have been an atheist said Randolph, had it not been for one recollection and that was when my mother used to take my hand in hers, and cause me on my knees to say 'Our Father which art in heaven'.' I never fear said a little child when father is with me."

God is always near His children. Psalm 145:18. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him in truth." Psalm 125:2. "As the mountains are around about Jerusalem, so the Lord is around about His people, from henceforth even forever." God is always near His people that He might help them, He knows the dangers and the trials that they must endure; but is always ready to help and deliver them from trial. We are often like the servant of Elisha. We cannot see Him and His heavenly host. 1. Kings. 6:18. "And Elisha prayed and said Lord, I pray Thee open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around about Elisha." So we need to pray that our spiritual eyes might be opened, so we can see God. Matthew. 5:8. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The reason we fail to see God is because sin has blinded our spiritual eyes. Psalm. 37:37. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright for the end of that man is peace." Psalm 34:8. "O! taste and see that the Lord is

good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." In order that we might find out something of the greatness and goodness of God, we must taste and see; no amount of dreaming of God will convince us that He is good. We must taste for ourselves, not just take some one else's word; but to personally experiment with God. Be willing to give God a trial in our lives, just taste and see for ourselves; the more we will see of His goodness, the stronger our distaste will be for the things that are ungodly. We will see that the things of this world cannot give us peace and rest.

"Would you be troubled, look within;
Would you be distracted, look around;
Would you be restful, look above."

God is a jealous God. Exodus: 20:3. "Thou shalt have no other God before me." We must remember that our God is a jealous God. If we are serving gods made out of material things, we are displeasing God, and we need not expect to receive great spiritual blessings, O! that we might see that it is more important to serve and worship the Creator, than the things created. Matt. 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Let the longings of your hearts be for God, for His righteousness, and for a place in His kingdom. If our hearts are filled with that one great desire for God, then the cares and the worries of this world will vanish away; for we will realize that God will supply all of our needs: It is because we do not realize that God, and God alone is sufficient, to supply our every need, that we are burdened with cares. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee." "Man's chief end in life is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever." 1 Sam. 2:30. "Them that honor Me I will honor, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed." The greater our faith in God and the more we trust in Him alone the more we honor Him. We honor God when we take everything to Him, no matter how small. We dishonor Him when we take things into our own hands, and make our own plans.

"He sendeth Sun, He sendeth Shower,—
Alike they are needful to the flower;
And joys and tears alike are sent
To give the soul fit nourishment.
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father! Thy will, not mine, be done."

The power of God. Psalm. 127:1. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." We should realize that without God we can do nothing, that it is through Him we receive all blessings. A man may say, I earn my bread by the sweat of my brow. He may go into the field and plant his grain; but can he make it grow by the sweat of his brow, or even if he sweats blood? No, unless God will send the rain and the sunshine. So in our spiritual life we may toil and labor, but God must send the sunshine of His blessing before we can have peace. Psalm 84:11. "The Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." The trouble with so many people is that they leave God out of everything. Men want to know what is wrong with business? You will find that business is wrong, because business men are leaving God out of account. When we leave God out of anything it goes wrong. When an individual leaves God out of their lives, their lives go wrong; they fail to find the greatest blessings. So with the nations that leaves God out of account, will not have peace and happiness. It is glorious when we fully realize, that the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. "God is in His heaven, all is right with the world." He watches above His own, ruling with love and almighty strength. He who clothes the grass and decks the flowers, and feeds the birds, will care for His children. Isaiah 40:11, 12, 15. "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arms, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with a span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket and counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, He taketh up the isles as a very little thing." A christian sailor was on the sea during a storm, although he could not swim he was very calm and peaceful. When some one asked him why he was so calm he said: "Though I sink I shall only drop into my Fathers hands; for he holds all these waters there." As long as we are working for God, and doing His will, He will aid us. When we attempt to work for ourselves, doing our own will He sends failure. We

should always realize that God and one man are a majority. Psalm 27:1, 2, 3. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear: The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked even my enemies came upon me to eat up my flesh they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should arise against me, in this will I be confident." Psalm 18:6. "The Lord is on my side I will not fear; what man can do unto me?" If we have God on our side we should feel that all is well, that we are safe with Him; no matter where He has placed us, for He will continue to watch over us. "Uneasy lies the head of him who does not wear the crown of righteousness; all the great of earth shall come to know at the last that God and one man are a majority." God has the power to supply our need no matter what they may be. "Do you feel that you have lost your way in life? Then God himself will show you your way. Are you utterly helpless, worn out body and soul? Then God's eternal love is ready to help you and revive you. Are you wearied with doubts and terrors? Then God's eternal light is ready to show you your way; God's eternal peace is ready to give you peace. Do you feel yourself full of sins and faults? Then take heart; for God's unchangeable will, is to take away those sins, and purge you from those faults." The way God supplies all our needs is through Christ. II. Cor. 13:11. "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

"In vain I seek for rest
In all created good,
It leaves me yet unblest,
And makes me pant for God.
And sure at rest I can not be,
Until my heart find rest in Thee!"

IV. JESUS CHRIST AND PEACE.

The angels sang when announcing Jesus's birth, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 1:79. "To give light to them that set in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the ways of peace." We see that Jesus's mission in the world was one of peace. We cannot have peace with God except through Jesus Christ, He gave His life that through His blood we might be saved; that through His atonement our sins might be forgiven, and our peace made with God. "For out of Christ God is a consuming fire." He not only came that we might have life, but more abundant life, that we might not only have peace with God, by having our sins forgiven; but that our very life should be filled with peace just as His life was filled with peace. John 14:27. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jesus had peace and peace to spare, at this time, when he was facing the cross and its suffering; He knew that His disciples would forsake Him, there was no one to sympathize with Him, even the Father's face was turned from Him, yet He said: "My peace I give unto you." Matthew Henry said: "When Christ was about to leave the world, He made His will, His soul He committed to His Father, His body He bequeathed to Joseph to be decently interred: His clothes fell to the soldiers; His mother He left to the care of John; but what should He leave His poor disciples who left all for Him? Silver and gold He had none; but He left them that which was infinitely better His peace." Jesus not only died to make our peace with God; but He ever lives to make intercession for us. Is it not a wonderful thing to know that we have in heaven, one who loves us, one who ever liveth to make intercession for us? "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

There was not only absent from Jesus's heart the enemies of peace; avarice, ambition, anger, and pride; but there was present

in His heart the things that make for peace, the acceptance of the Father's will and obedience to the law of the spirit, and an attitude of soul which makes one superior to time and sense. This is the peace that Jesus gives His followers, a peace that will enable them to do the most humble service, or pass through the greatest trials, and still be above the cloud. This is the peace that the world needs. This is the peace that the individual is longing for. Jesus alone can give this peace, He can supply our every need.

If it is life and peace we want, He can give it to us, for He says in John 11:25. "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 14:6. "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." If we will only come to Him, He will give us life; but there is no other way. John 5:40. "But ye will not come to me that ye might have life." All men need this spiritual life, no man's soul can be at peace without it. Jesus gives this peace to those that receive Him. We cannot have His peace without first receiving Him into our hearts, for where He is there will His peace be; it is impossible to separate His peace from His presence. If we by faith, love, and obedience take Him into our hearts, we will enjoy His presence and have His peace. A peace that no storm can break through and destroy. "Peace may be ours in the midst of warfare and of storm, for Christ with us reconciles us to God, harmonises us with ourselves, brings us into amity with men and makes the world all good." "Not as the world giveth give I unto you." The world cannot give us peace, it may give us excitement for a time, but Christ alone can give us real peace. He said, "Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." There is much in the world to trouble us, and make us sad, but we must take everything to Him and all will be well. If we have Christ's peace in our hearts we need not be troubled and afraid, for Christ had peace, when passing through trials, and He can give us peace in time of trouble.

If we thirst He can give us drink. John 7:38. "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." There is nothing else that can satisfy our thirst like the water Jesus will give; there is no earthly well from which we can draw and quench our spiritual thirst. When Jesus was talking to the woman of

Samaria at Jacob's well, He said: "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him, shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." If we hunger He will give us food. John 6:48 — 51, 57. "I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. As the living Father hath sent Me and I live by the Father so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me." Matt. 5:6. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." Just look into the twenty third Psalm and we will see how He feeds us. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me besides the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His names sake." "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Our wants are more than supplied in Jesus, our "cup runneth over."

If it is light and guidance we need, Jesus can direct us. John 8:12. "I am the light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." He will give light to those who want light, no man need walk in darkness, if he is willing to follow the light of Jesus. John 3:19. "And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." So the reason that so many walk in darkness, is because of sin in their life and their unwillingness to follow the light. Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." He will guide us as a shepherd guides his sheep; even through the valley of the shadow of death. Jesus does not drive his followers, but goes before leading them on. If we will follow Him He will be our guide, He himself will travel with us, and we will be guided just as the children of Israel were guided, step by step across the wilderness to the promised land. The children of Israel were guided across the red sea when the mountains were on either side of them and Pharaoh's army was to their back. If you have ever come to the

red sea place in your life, when there seems to be no way out, no way back, and no way but through, then just trust Jesus to guide you through.

“Guide us love, peace, and grace!
Guide us divinest light!
Through all our work, and care and woe;
Through all the dizzy joys we know,
Through the dark valley where we go,
Guide us love’s dearest light,
Today, tonight.”

If it is rest that we need Jesus can give us rest. Matt. 11:28, 29. “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Notice that this invitation is to all to come, all that labor and are heavy laden, and does that not include every one? For where can you find a soul that does not have some burden; either burdened with sin, or burdened with the cares of the world? But we need not carry these burdens on our own shoulders, for Jesus looked into the hearts of men and saw that they were burdened, that they were filled with sorrow and unrest; so He said, “come unto Me,” and “I will give you rest.” If we come to Him He will bear our burdens for us, and give us rest and peace. We are not only to come to Him that we might find rest; but He says, “take my yoke upon you and learn of Me.” We are to submit to His will, to serve Him to learn of Him, and to imitate Him in such a way that our lives will be a copy of His life. We will find that we will have rest and peace if we come to him, and let Him bear our burdens, and let Him rule our lives.

“Rest weary soul
The penalty is borne,
The ransom paid,
For all thy sins full satisfaction made;
Strive not to do thyself what Christ has done,
Claim the free gift and make the joy thy own;
No more pangs of guilt,
Rest, sweetly rest.”

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” This is one of the conditions of discipleship. If we are to take Jesus and receive all His blessings, we must deny self, this does not mean what a great many people call self-denial, it means the dethroning of self, and putting Christ instead; it means saying no to self and yes to Christ. The more we deny self, and the more we live for Christ the greater our peace and happiness will be, for He is our peace. Matt. 28: 20. “Lo I am with you always even to the end of the world.” Jesus never leaves His disciples alone, but is always with them. It is as we have fellowship with Jesus, as we abide in Him, and allow Him to abide in us; as the branch abides in the vine, will we have the greatest peace. The presence of Jesus Christ in our hearts brings peace. Col. 3:11. “Christ all in all.” “All we want in Christ we shall find in Christ. If we want little we shall find little. If we want much we shall find much; but if in our utter helplessness we cast our all on Christ He will be to us the whole treasure of God.” He is wisdom for our ignorance, He is strength for our weakness, and He is righteousness for our sins.

You remember, when the disciples were crossing the sea and Jesus was asleep in the ship, there came a great storm and the disciples were afraid; so they awoke Jesus and He said unto the sea, “peace be still,” and the wind ceased and there was a great calm. “He said unto the disciples why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?” The disciples need not have been afraid. We need not be afraid, no matter what storms we are passing through, if Jesus is with us, and we have that faith which trusts in Him alone. If we have sorrow and tribulation, we are only receiving part of His legacy, and the rest which is peace will follow; for He said: “These things have I spoken unto you that in Me ye might have peace, in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world.”

“Come, to Him who made thy heart;
Come weary and oppressed;
To come to Jesus is thy part;
His part to give thee rest.”

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PEACE.

Jesus knew that His disciples craved peace, and that men would always crave peace; so He said that He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, that He might abide with them forever. John 14:16. "And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter that He may abide with you forever." John 16:7. "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send Him unto you." The Comforter was not sent unto the disciples alone, but to be the Comforter for all time; for you remember when Peter was preaching, he said, "For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are far off, even as many as the Lord Our God shall call." The Comforter does not have any physical limitations, but can be everywhere at one time. The Comforter means more than just one to utter words of comfort to the sorrowing hearts. He is one who will guide, will strengthen, and will teach. Christ sent the Comforter to take His place, to not only stand by the side of believers, but to dwell in the hearts of every one who through faith, love, and obedience will receive Him. John 14:17. "Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you." Jesus knew the trials and the temptations that would befall His disciples; He knew they would be as lambs among wolves, and that they would not be strong enough to stand alone. So He promised to send the Comforter, the strengthener, one who would be strength for all their weakness; who would enable the dwarfs to become giants; who would be wisdom for their ignorance, enabling the foolish to become wise.

It is the work of the Comforter to guide. John 16:13, 14. "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. And He shall glorify Me for He shall receive of Mine and show it unto you." Jesus says "I am the

truth," so when He says the Spirit will guide you into all truth, does He not mean that the Spirit will guide men to Him who is the truth? The work of the Spirit is to lead men to know and to understand more fully Jesus Christ and His work, "For He shall receive of Mine and show it unto you." The Spirit makes plain the things of Christ, interpreting the deep meanings of His words and deeds; those things that the human mind cannot grasp in its own strength. The Spirit not only leads men to Christ, but He glorifies Christ.

The Holy Spirit is a teacher. John 14:26. "But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." The Holy Ghost is sent by God in Christ's name, in this one verse we have mentioned the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; the office of the Holy Ghost is to teach of God the Father and of Christ the Son. The Holy Spirit is more than just an influence; "He shall teach," and He can be grieved by evil and sin. Eph. 4:30. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." The Holy Spirit teaches about Jesus Christ, His life and His work. Some men do not want to be taught by the Spirit; but would rather listen to the opinions and teachings of men, and thus they miss the great spiritual blessings that Christ has for them. With such a wonderful teacher as the Holy Spirit the most humble and uneducated christian, can get a wonderful grasp of the knowledge of Christ; if they will only give themselves to the Spirit, to be taught. The disciples were poor uneducated men, but when they were filled with the Spirit they had wonderful knowledge and power. The more fully we give ourselves up to the teaching of the Spirit, the greater will be our knowledge of Christ, and the more we will enjoy His blessings.

It is the work of the Spirit to convict men of sin. John 16:8. "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment." The Spirit convicts men of sin, He opens their eyes that they might see sin in all its blackness and lead them to Jesus. A man must be willing to be separated from sin, before the Spirit can take possession of His heart; and reveal Jesus Christ in all His love and holiness. The heart must be made pure, in order to understand the things of

the Spirit; no amount of wordly education, or self intellect, can reveal the things of the Spirit to a man's heart. "If any man wills to do His will he shall know of the doctrine." A man must be willing to submit, to the teachings of the Spirit before the Spirit can teach him. A man must be convicted of sin, must see that there is sin in his life before he will feel that he needs the righteousness of Jesus Christ. A man that feels well and strong physically, does not care to have the treatment of a physician; it is when he feels that there is something wrong with his body that he sends for the physician. As long as a man is full of self-righteousness and conceit, as long as he is puffed up with his own righteousness; he does not see that he needs any other knowledge and righteousness, so closes the door of his heart, and misses the blessings he might receive. No man can call Jesus Lord but by the Holy Spirit; so when we close our hearts to the Holy Spirit we keep Jesus out of our lives.

The Spirit not only convicts men of sin but enables men to overcome sin. Gal. 5:16—18. "This I say then, walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit ye are not under the law." You have heard so many people say, they cannot give up certain sins, that they are not strong enough to overcome them; they cannot in their own strength; but by the help of the Spirit men may become victorious over every known sin. Right here is where so many fail to grow in the Christian life, they try to grow and overcome sin in their own strength; it is when men give themselves up to the Spirit, that He enables them to overcome sin, and gives them strength to grow.

Eph. 5:8. "But be filled with the Spirit." It is the Spirit that makes the presence of Jesus Christ real to men. The reason so many do not enjoy the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives; is because they do not allow the Spirit to fill their hearts. Since the Holy Spirit came into the world, "It is now the same as though each soul had Jesus all to itself; delightful intercourse interpreting the reality of God to the reasonable creature. When a man becomes filled with the Spirit there is such a change in his nature; that it is just as if another soul did dwell in the same body." When the Comforter comes in and fills the heart, there

is no room in that heart for discomfort. If people are miserable and unhappy, it is a good sign that they have not received much of the Comforter, that their lives are not filled with Him. We can have much of Him in our lives, or we can have little of Him, just as we choose. We can fret and worry, and refuse to be comforted; but there is no need of it, for He is offered freely to us, and we are commanded to be filled with Him. If we wish we can enrich our hearts by being filled with the Spirit and enjoy a life of peace and happiness. Right here lies the secret of a life of peace, the more completely we are filled with the Spirit, the greater our peace. This life of peace and happiness is the Spirit filled life. There is no other way to have lasting peace and real happiness in our lives; for it is only as we are filled with the Spirit that the presence of God the Father and Jesus Christ becomes real to us, and we are able to enjoy all the blessings that are in store for us.

The Holy Spirit gives power for service. Acts 1:8. "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost comes upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." We may not be having any power or joy in our service, we may have worked and labored hard; but it has been a burden to us, and our work has been without results. It is just a waste of time and energy, for us to try to do the Lord's work without the Lord's instrument. Jesus told the disciples to wait until they were endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49. "And, behold, I send the promise of My Father unto you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." We see what joy and what power the disciples had in their service after they received the Spirit. Before Peter was filled with the Spirit, he did not have the strength, and the power, to stand firm and acknowledge Jesus before a servant girl; after receiving the Spirit, he spoke to crowds and thousands were converted. Before the disciples were filled with the Spirit, they were selfish, each wishing a higher honor than the other; but after they were filled with the Spirit, they became humble, each trying to render service unto God without thinking of self. The fires that were kindled at pentecost are still burning today; we may have the same power that the disciples had. If we are filled with the Spirit, we will find that there is joy in the most humble service, and we will find that God will bless our most humble ser-

vice with power. If we are trying to do the christian work without the Spirit; we are like a branch that is trying to bear fruit without being joined to the vine. Men like to make their own plans and carry out their own programs, and so often their plans fail and they are not able to carry out their programs, they then become discouraged and give up. We should always realize that God knows best, that He can plan more wisely than we. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to guide men in the way that God plans for him to go. "God's biddings are His enablings." Often mens plans are selfish, and the Spirit leads men into unselfish plans, and into communion with God. In working with the Spirit man learns to see the hand of God in his broken plans, and in his sorrows. It is when our wills and plans are given up to the Holy Spirit, that He can make known unto us the will of God, and help us in doing His will. One mistake so many christians make, is they do not wait to find out God's will; but just rush on doing their own will, and of course must come to sorrow sooner or later.

The fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22.23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, Joy, peace longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." To be filled with the Spirit is to produce the fruit that Christ produced. It is to have our life and character Christlike. There is more in a christian life than simply beginning it; just as there is more in a garden than simply planting it. A garden must be cultivated in order that fruit may be produced, so in the christian life. We can not produce the fruit of the Spirit, with out having the Spirit in our hearts, and without putting out of our hearts the things that hinder the growth of the Spirit. The christian that bears the most fruit is the one that is the most completely filled with the Spirit.

"Within us, Lord, Thy Spirit place,
Conveying health, and peace, and power;
And let us daily grow in grace,
That we may love and serve Thee more.

Oh! may Thy Spirit seal our souls,
And mould them to Thy will,
That our weak hearts no more may stray,
But keep Thy precepts still."

VI. BIBLE STUDY AND PEACE.

If we want to know about God and His wondrous love, about Jesus and what he has done for us; and if we want to know how we may grow in our Christian life, we must study the Bible. "The word of God which is contained in the scripture of the Old and New Testament is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him." We are told to "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me" Notice we are told to search the scripture, not just read them as a pastime or in a careless way. The reason so many do not enjoy their religion, and do not find peace and happiness, is because they do not search for it in the word of God. Our growth in grace and our joy and peace is determined largely by the way we study God's word. If we love the Bible, and love to study and meditate on its promises; our hearts will be filled with its blessed truths, and we will find ourselves becoming more like Him of whom the Bible teaches. "The Bible is God's chart for you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbor is and how to reach it without running on rocks or bars." In studying the Bible we will find what God will have us do in the world.

The Bible is to the spiritual man what food is to the physical man. It is the bread of life to the soul. If we do not have an appetite for this food there is something wrong with our spiritual nature; and we are not growing spiritually, any more than the man is growing physically who does not have an appetite for food. We know that it is impossible for a child to grow strong and enjoy physical health who only takes a bite of food now and then. To grow strong physically one must take the proper nourishment and take it every day. We cannot take enough of food in one day to make us grow and give us strength for a week or more. Yet some people think by reading a few chapters in God's word on the Sabbath day that it is all the spiritual food they need to keep them alive for a week, and to make them grow spiritually strong. But such is impossible. One must do more than that if he is to find peace and happiness and if he is to

make progress in his Christian life. A description of the happy man is found in the first Psalm. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night." Psalm 119:97. "O! how love I Thy law! It is my meditation all the day." The reason some people are not more interested in the Bible is because they know so little about it. The more we know about the Bible the more we will want to know; our appetite for Bible study grows, as we feed it on the word.

It is by reading and studying God's word that we are able to know and overcome sin. II Tim. 3:16. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Psalm 119:11. "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." It is when we have the word of God hid in our heart that we are able to overcome temptation. You remember that Jesus used the word of God when He was tempted in the wilderness. We may imagine that Jesus spent those forty days in communion with God, meditating upon His word and in prayer; so when the temptations came He was able to overcome them. If we spend much time meditating upon God's holy word and in communing with Him, we also will be made strong and able to overcome sin. Psalm 119:105. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It is by following the light that this lamp gives that we are able to see the way to walk, and to avoid the pitfall and snares of the evil one. There is no other book that can give us the light we need in traveling through this world of sin and darkness. We are but pilgrims, traveling through this world, and we need a chart or guide book, just as the man who travels from one part of the country to the other needs a chart or guide book to show him the right way.

It is the nation that follows the light of the Bible teaching, that has the greatest peace and happiness. "Take a map of the world and draw a line separating the nations that receive the scripture from those that reject it, and you have divided between civilization and barbarism, between poverty and prosperity, between selfishness and philanthropy, between freedom and op-

pression, between darkness and light." The Bible and progress go together, wherever the Bible goes you can easily see that nation making progress; so with the individual, the more he reads and studies the word of God, the more progress he will make. "If you are ever tempted to speak or think lightly of it, just sit down and imagine what this world would be without it. No Bible! a wound and no cure, a storm and no covert, a condemnation and no shrift, a lost eternity and no ransom! Alas for us if this were all; alas for us if the ladder of science were the only stair to lead us up to God."

In studying the word, we need to continually pray for divine guidance. Psalm 19:18. "Open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." We need the Holy Spirit, the author of the book to guide us. "To unconverted persons, much of the Bible resembles a letter written in cipher. The Spirit's office is to act as God's decipherer, by letting His people into the secret of those sweet mysteries of grace which were before as a garden shut up, or as a fountain sealed, or as a book written in an unknown character. It is the Spirit's influence that brings men to God, and leads them to yearn for something purer." Let us think of the Bible as a letter from our heavenly Father. In it He tells us of His love, and the things He would have us know and do. If we would treat letters from our friends like we treat God's letter they would become very much offended. Do you not think, we are offending God when we neglect His letter to us? During the days of martyrdom there was a young woman on her way to a secret meeting where the Bible was to be read. She was met by a band of persecutors. They asked her where she was going; she quietly answered, "They are going to read my Father's will (the Bible) and I am on my way to hear it read." We should think of the Bible as our Father's will to us.

It takes time to study God's word. We need not expect to know and understand His word without work on our part, any more than we would expect to get a college education without study; or to gather a harvest without working the crop. Every Christian, must spend some time studying God's word if he wishes to grow; if he is a true Christian, he will be glad to give some time studying his Father's will. Of course some Christians have more time for Bible study than others, but every one should manage to

spend some time in Bible study each day. When it is impossible to spend more than a few minutes, if those few minutes are spent in the spirit of prayer for divine guidance, God can wonderfully bless them. "The Bible is a treasure. It contains enough to make us rich for time and eternity. It contains the secret of happy living. It contains the key of heaven. It contains the title deed of an inheritance incorruptible, and that fadeth not away. It contains the pearl of great price. Nay, in so far as it reveals them as a portion of us sinful worms, it contains the Saviour and the living God Himself."—James Hamilton.

God's book never grows old; the books of men soon go out of date, but the Bible is like God Himself, "the same yesterday, today and forever." Spurgeon says, "Many books in my library are now behind and beneath me. They were good in their way once, and so were the clothes that I wore when I was ten years old; but I have outgrown them. Nobody ever outgrows scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years." Some people will say the Bible is dull; but the trouble is not with the Bible, for the Bible is never dull unless the reader is dull. It is the worldly spirit in our heart that shuts the book and makes it seem dull; but the Spirit of God in the heart makes the Bible open up, so that you may see deep meanings and glorious truths that you never knew were there. If you want the wisdom to understand the Bible, just ask God, for He hath promised to supply us with wisdom. James 1:5. "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." D. L. Moody says, "I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. If a man neglects his Bible, he may pray and ask God to use him in His work; but God cannot make much use of him, for there is not much for the Holy Ghost to work upon."

You will not find much joy in studying the word of God, if you do not keep its commandments and follow its teachings. Psalm 119:33-35. "Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." It is because the Psalmist was willing to follow the teaching of God's word that he found

so much joy and delight in studying it. He even said, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." If we are to find joy and peace in the word of God, we must obey its commandments; if it is to mean more unto us than health, gold and silver, we must follow its teachings.

"Upon thy word I rest,
So strong, so sure;
So full of comfort blest,
So sweet, so pure —
The word that changeth not, that faileth never;
My King, I rest upon Thy word forever."

VII. PRAYER AND PEACE.

Our hearts long to have communion with God, so it is through prayer that we are able to have this desire fulfilled; it is through prayer that our spirits can meet God, and we can make known our desires unto Him; it is through prayer that we can wait before Him that He may make his will known unto us. "Prayer is the offering up of our desire unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies." James 8:8. "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." "Keep near the fountain head, and with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Prayer is to the spiritual man, what breathing is to the physical man; just as man cannot live physically without breathing, so he cannot live spiritually without praying. To be strong physically requires deep breathing; and to be spiritually strong requires earnest praying, and the laying hold upon God, the source of all spiritual strength. The breathing we did yesterday will not suffice for today, we must continue to breathe every day or the physical life will die. So in the spiritual life we must continue to pray every day that we might have spiritual strength.

Jesus says, Matthew 7:7. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Notice the three terms ask, seek, knock. Ask is to make known our desires to God in Christ. We are very familiar with the little word ask; we are continually asking favors of our friends and loved ones; making our desires known unto them, so in prayer we are to ask, to make known our desires to God in Christ. What are those desires? Do we really pray that we may have more of the love of God in our heart and less of the love of the world? Do we pray that we might be stronger Christians, might become spiritual giants? Do we pray that our hearts might be filled with His peace? Or, do we desire these spiritual blessings enough to ask for them? For we are told to ask, and we shall receive.

You may grow in the Christian life just as much as you choose; you may have a fuller knowledge of God's truth, closer communion with Him, and become more Christ-like if you desire and are willing to shape your actions according to your desire. Is it not pathetic to see Christians so weak when they might be so strong? Pathetic to see them standing in the dark shadows, when they might be enjoying the sunshine of His Grace. Pathetic to see them receiving so little, when so much has been prepared for them. James 4:2, 3. "Ye have not because you ask not. Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lust." Are these great spiritual blessings worth asking for, and learning to ask for aright? Are they not worth putting aside selfish motives, in order that we might receive them? For true praying is not asking God to give us things for selfish motives; it is not asking God to do our will but asking that we might be made willing to do His will. It is not a desire to make God's plan suit our plans; but a desire to know God's plans and a willingness to follow them. Some peoples' prayers are just about as selfish as the prayer of two little boys when coasting down a hill. The grade down an avenue was steep and the street had a dangerous curve. A man crossed the avenue at the top of the grade, and saw a little boy standing there with closed eyes; another little boy could be seen coasting down the hill on a sled near the dangerous portion of the curve. The man said, "It seem to me you boys could find a safer place to coast." The little boy opened his eyes and said, "You may have been the death of him. This is a risky hill but it is great fun and we've got a trick to make it safe. One of us coasts while the other stays at the top and prays." Jesus says, in John 15:7, "If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." Notice, if we abide in Christ, and His word abides in us, then we shall ask and receive. If we abide in Christ, we will ask for those things that are according to his will. "The divine wisdom has given us prayer, not as a means whereby to obtain the good things of earth, but as a means whereby we learn to do without them; not as a means whereby we escape evil, but as a means whereby we become strong to meet it."

We should help answer our own prayers. "Seek and ye shall find." Mark 14:38. "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into

temptation." Jeremiah 29:13. "And ye shall seek me and find Me when ye shall search for Me with all your hearts." When we are told to seek in prayer, does it not mean that we are to help answer our own prayers? If we pray to be delivered from temptation, it is our duty to stay as far away from temptation as possible. If we pray to grow in our spiritual life it is our duty to study His word, to do His will; and use all the means that He has given us, to help us grow. If we want to be filled with more of His Spirit, and less of the spirit of the world, we should seek for Him with the whole heart, not having one eye on heavenly things and one on the things of the world, and not using one hand to grasp the spiritual things and the other hand to grasp the things of the world. When we are told to set our affections on things above, it does not mean just a part of our affections; but our whole heart. "For ye cannot serve God and mammon." If we pray for the advancement of God's kingdom, we should work and help to bring it about. If we are praying for the salvation of souls, we should do personal work and help save the souls for which we are praying. If we are to work and pray, we are to work just as hard as if all depended upon our work; and pray just as hard as if everything depended upon our prayers. Prayer is not intended to take the place of work; and work is not intended to take the place of prayer. If men spent as much time and energy trying to make progress in their spiritual lives, as they spend in trying to make progress in worldly things, the world would be full of spiritual giants. We should spend more time and energy in making spiritual progress than the average Christian spends, for the spiritual things are of supreme importance. The value of the spiritual things to each individual is of more value to him than all the world.

Perseverance in prayer. "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." "Pray without ceasing." "Men ought to always pray and not to faint." The Christian life should be one of continual prayer. Do you suppose that if a Christian was always praying that he would faint when trouble comes? But do you not think he would be strong enough to endure trouble when it comes? It is when men cease to pray, and have lost connection with their heavenly Father, who supplies them with strength to overcome, that they faint in time of trouble. We know when some pumps are used freely, that the water pours out easily because it is high; but

if the pump has not been used for some time the water gets low, and you have to pump a long time before the water will flow. This is the way with prayer, if we are instant with prayer, our desires and words are always ready; but if we neglect to pray, it is more difficult for us to pray, for the spiritual water in our heart is low. It is men who are the most faithful in their prayer life, that are the most certain to receive the blessings of prayer; the more we pray the less our burdens become. We will gain strength and courage to bear what seemed impossible. "Trouble and sorrow drives us to prayer, and prayer drives away trouble and sorrow." Somehow when things seem darkest if we will only continue to pray, the sun will shine. The more we pray the more peace and happiness we will have; if we pray little we will have little peace, if we pray much we will have great peace.

Sin hinders prayer. Isaiah 59:1, 2. "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that he can not hear; but your sins have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Prov. 15-29. "The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayers of the righteous." If we do not get joy and peace out of our prayer life; it is because there is sin in our lives. Sin separates us from God, and as long as we have known sins, and refuse to put them away, we need not expect to get much joy and peace out of our prayer life. If we spent more time in prayer we would spend less time grieving over our sin and mistakes. "Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer."

In studying the life of Jesus we see that He spent a great deal of time in prayer, He even spent a whole night in prayer. We see how wonderfully God heard and answered His prayers. When He prayed at His baptism the Holy Spirit descended on Him; when He prayed at His transfiguration, "The fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening." He had strength to perform His miracles, He had strength even in His agonies and death. If we should follow His example and spend much time in prayer, we would have strength to overcome sin and would be given power in Christian service. The Spirit teaches us how to pray. Romans 8:26. "Likewise, the Spirit helpeth our infirmities; for we know not

what things we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercessions for us with groanings that cannot be uttered." We should depend on the Spirit to guide and direct us in our prayer life.

There is peace and joy in prayer. Phil. 4:6, 7. "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." It is when we take everything to God in prayer, that we are filled with this wonderful peace that passeth all understanding. The more we unburden ourselves to Him, the more peace we will have. It is when we try to bear our own burdens and do not take them to Him in prayer that we are troubled and cast down.

"Any heart turned Godward feels more joy
In one short hour of prayer, than e'er was raised,
By all the feasts of earth since the foundation."

We see that the men of the Bible, who were praying men, were not only given strength in trouble but were filled with peace. We take Abraham — everything was well with him, even if he must give up his son on the altar. Daniel was a man of prayer, and when he was in the lions den he had more peace, and was happier than the king in his palace. When Paul and Silas were in prison they prayed and sang praises to God. When the apostles were being persecuted for preaching and teaching they were filled with peace. We also might have the same peace, if we take everything to God in prayer and depend on Him for strength. We may not understand how God can answer all our prayers, but he has told us to take everything to Him in prayer, and that He will give us His peace, so let's take Him at His word, and take everything to Him in prayer. We cannot do His work without praying for His help. Luther when most pressed with his great work said: "I have so much to do that I cannot get on without three hours a day of praying." Gen. Havelock arose at four if the hour for marching was six, rather than lose the precious hour of communion with God before setting out. Sir Matthew Hale says, "If I omit praying and reading God's word in the morning, nothing goes well all day." Fenelon used to say, "I spend much time in my closet in order to be prepared for the

the pulpit." We see why these men had such power in their Christian service, and why their lives were filled with peace even though they were passing through storms; it was because they spent much time in prayer.

“ We kneel, how weak; we arise, how full of power !
Why therefore should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others — that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overborne with care,
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee ! ”

VIII. FAITH AND PEACE.

Faith is believing, not seeing, and not feeling; and the faith that honors God is the faith that believes, when it cannot see, hear, or feel. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is essential in the spiritual life. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." It is faith in Jesus Christ that brings salvation, and enables us to live spiritually. John 3:36. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 20:31. "But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." When a miner is to be let down into a deep mine by a rope, he may say that he has faith in the rope, as well made and strong. But it is not until he takes hold of the rope and lets go of everything else, that he is believing in the rope, and trusting himself to the rope. Faith is not just simply a matter of opinion, it is an act. "Saving faith is confidence in Jesus, a direct confidential transaction with Him."

Do we not want more than the life we receive at the new birth? Do we not want the more abundant life? If so, it may be ours by our having more faith. The faith that not only trusts God for our salvation; but the faith that trusts Him to keep us every day; the faith that trusts all to Him, and is willing to obey His every command. We should trust all to Him, not because we can see or feel, but because God says so. Matt. 9:29. "Then touched He their eyes, saying according to your faith be it unto you." Had the blind men not had faith their sight would not have been restored. Our spiritual blessings depend on our faith, if we have strong faith we may expect great spiritual blessings. "According to your faith be it unto you." By faith Abraham went forth at God's command not knowing where he was going. It is faith like Abraham's that brings great spiritual blessings into our lives, faith that just follows God's guidance, and does

not depend on the knowledge of self. "Abraham did not know whither he went but he knew with whom he went." Spurgeon said: "I would sooner walk in the dark and hold hard to the promise of my God, than trust in the light of the brightest day that ever dawned."

Faith kills fear. The man that does not have faith in God, as an allwise God, and as his God, is filled with fear. Psalm 56:3, 11. "What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee. In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." The psalmist does not try to reason things out, and say that he is man enough to meet any trouble, and that he is strong enough to fight any foe; but he depends upon the power of God to help him through. He quietly says, what time I am afraid I will trust in God, after putting his trust in God he can be at peace. A man that does not have faith in his fellow men is miserable, he feels that they are not treating him just right, and that they always want to take the advantage of him. We are always uneasy if we cannot trust our fellow men, and we are more uneasy if we cannot trust God; but "Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him."

"What dost thou fear? His wisdom reigns
Supreme confessed;
His power is infinite; His love
The deepest, fondest dreams above,
So trust and rest."

There must be obedience, if we are to receive the blessings that come by faith. Faith is not only trusting God to keep us, and direct us; but it is obeying Him, and following where He leads us. What good would it do us, if we had faith enough to go to a physician for treatment, if we refused to obey his orders? You immediately say that a physician can not do you any good if you refuse to follow his direction, and submit to his treatment. We need not expect to receive the spiritual blessing from God without obeying His orders, any more than we would expect to receive physical blessings from a physician, when we refuse to follow his orders. We not only want faith that believes Jesus is the Saviour, but we want the faith that takes Him for our own Saviour, and submits to His will, believing that He knows what is best for us. If we have faith like this, we need not worry and

fret, for we can put ourselves in His hands, depending on Him instead of self; instead of making our own plans, just follow the plans God has for us.

Faith in God enables us to endure trouble. Just before Jesus was to be crucified, and He knew that His disciples were to pass through great trials, He said unto them, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am there ye may be also." Jesus knew if His disciples believed in God, believed in Him, and believed that He was going to heaven to prepare a place for them, where they would always be with Him, that they could pass through the trials that were before them without being troubled. If we have faith in God, as an allwise God, as one who has allpower, and who is our loving heavenly Father, faith in Jesus as an all sufficient Saviour, and if we believe that He is in heaven preparing a place for us, we will be able to pass through trials without letting our hearts be troubled. It is because our faith is not strong enough that we allow ourselves to be troubled on every side. If we could fully realize that this earth is not our continual abiding place, but that Jesus is preparing for us a place in heaven, where we are to spend eternity, we would not worry so much about accumulating the wealth of this world. We would not let our hearts be troubled with every misfortune that happens. If we could realize that heaven is to be our eternal home, we would spend more time laying up treasure there and less time trying to get the things that we will soon part with. If we just trust God and serve Him, we need not worry about the things of this world, for He will take care of us. Psalm 32:10. "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about." When we take our troubles to God we put them in the grave, they cannot come back to us. If we take them to some one else they will come back.

"When obstacles and trials seem
Like prison wall to be
I do the little I can do
And leave the rest to Thee."

Faith brings peace and joy. Psalm 5:11. "But let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them; let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee." If we do not have faith we will not have peace and joy, if we have strong faith we will have great peace, the more faith the more completely we can rest. If our faith is great enough we can be content in poverty, we can have joy though we are in sorrow, we can have peace though we are passing through great trials. The reason so many Christians have so little peace and happiness in their lives is because they have so little faith. They ask so little from God, and of course expect little from Him; they do not have enough faith in God to ask great things of Him. "Large asking and large expectations on our part honor God." We dishonor God when we are content with so little when we might have so much, by just asking and trusting Him. If we trust the Lord for great blessings He will give them to us. We must also trust Him in little things or He will not be able to give us great things. Phil. 4:19. "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Some one has said, "God does not give us ready money. He issues promissory notes and then pays them when faith presents them at the throne. Each one of us has a check-book."

A man cannot have peace and rest, until he knows that there is nothing wrong between himself and God. "He that believes has found the short sure road to joy and peace, because his relations are set right with God." Rom. 5:1. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The joy and peace that comes through faith will fill our hearts as long as we are trusting and no longer, our faith of yesterday will not give us joy and peace today. We must always live in an attitude of trust in God, when we cease to trust God we no longer have joy and peace. Let us hold on to this peace, once we have it. Just as a man who has physical life, must continue to feed and exercise that life; so once we have peace with God through faith in Christ, let us feed that faith and use it. There are so many things in the world that are hostile to this peace, we must continually guard ourselves, and not let any sin, come between us and God, and not allow our wills to be in opposition to His will. We cannot have sweet communion

with our Father if we are in rebellion against Him, and for the time being the consciousness of our peace with Him is destroyed. If we lose this peace with God there is no peace with ourselves, no peace with man. We can have no peace, unless in our conscience we can feel that we have peace with God. "Joy in the Lord and peace with God are the parents of all joy and peace that are worthy of the name." If we desire to be at rest, and to have the joy and peace that comes into our lives, when we can live without being disturbed by the storms of passion and enmity; and to have peace with our friends and our foes, we must see that there is nothing to interfere with our peace with God. "Trust is peace." "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but in Me ye shall have peace." We may be in Him if we are willing to trust ourselves to Him.

"If thou couldst trust, poor soul,
In Him who rules the whole,
Thou wouldst find peace and rest;
Wisdom and sight are well, but trust is best."

IX. LOVE AND PEACE.

Love is at the root of the twin commandment, the first love to God, the second is like unto it, love to man. Mark 12:39; 31, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other greater than these." To love God this way means more than a lip service, it means a service of obedience, it means to love Him with our hands, our feet, our purses, our time, and our whole life. John 14:23. "If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." It is when we love Jesus that He manifests Himself to us and abides with us. It is love that brings Jesus into our lives, and enables us to have intimate and personal fellowship with Him. The more we love Him, the more He will abide with us, and the more of His love and His peace we will have in our hearts. The more love we have for Him, the more peace He will give us. To love God we must realize that He first loved us. John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We know God must have loved us or He would not have given His Son for us.

There is a great deal of difference between our selfish love and Christ love, the love that Christ had for us when He gave Himself for us was a God-like love. John 15:9, "As the Father has loved Me so have I loved you." This is love so great, that we cannot understand its heights and depths; yet we are commanded to love that way. John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you." Christ's love for His followers is so great that all who love Him may feel secure in His love. Rom. 8:35, 38, 39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life nor angels,

nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Do we realize how strong, how enduring, the love of God must be? We see how much easier it is to be separated from our earthly friends than from the love of God. Sometimes those we love are separated from us, because our opinions are different from theirs, or for some trivial matter. We are sometimes separated because we do not always do the things they think we ought, or because we have made some mistake. Sometimes we are separated from our friends and their love, because of jealousy, unless you are always petting some people like spoiled babies, you are not able to hold their love. Those whom you feel are your best friends today are possibly your worst enemies tomorrow, not so with God. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus says, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." We can always depend on Jesus Christ being with us, our friends may fail us in the time of need; but Jesus never.

Jesus wants our love, our service, and gifts to Him would not count without love. "For the gift without the giver is bare." You know how you feel if some one gives you a gift, or does you a kindness and you know they do not love you; but just for policy, or for pity's sake, they show you kindness. You do not appreciate the kindness like you would if you knew the heart had been prompted by love. So with God He wants our love first; he then appreciates our service and gifts. The more we love God, and the more our love is like His love, the stronger we will love our friends, we will be able to love them, although we do not always agree with them. When we allow any trivial matter to separate us from the love of our friends, it is because we do not have much of the love of God in our hearts. "The more we are like Him the more we will love." If we love our neighbors as ourselves, there will be no trouble for us to keep the golden rule. If we love our neighbors as ourselves we will not criticize them, we will not make slight remarks about them, just to amuse ourselves or our friends. Having fun at some one else's expense is not keeping the golden rule. A great many people who call themselves Christians, delight to talk about their neighbors, always looking for something to criticize. Christ reproofed men

of sin, but he did not criticize and make fun of them, and if we are guilty of these things, we are not following in His foot-steps. We need to pray that our hearts will be so filled with His love that we will be able to love others.

We are not only to love those that love us, but to love our enemies. Matt. 5:44, "But I say unto you love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Where love is there will not be envy, strife, jealousy, hatred; but there will be peace and joy. When love comes into our hearts hate goes out; just as light drives our darkness, so does love drive out hate, envy, jealousy. We are told to overcome evil with good. By developing the things that are good and lovely, the things that are evil will disappear. If we will do our enemies a kindness it will help us to love them, and it will help our enemies to love us. This is the love that passes understanding, and brings peace into the life of the Christian, and it is by such love as this that the world will know that we are His disciples. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Love is God's way. "Where love is God is, if we dwell in love we dwell in God, for God is love." Therefore love the poor, love the rich, love your friends, and love your enemies. "Love is the fulfilling of the law."

Paul tells us the value of love in I. Cor. the thirteenth chapter. Other gifts that we value will profit us nothing if we do not have love. He tells us some of the things that love will do. Love is patient, is kind, it does not envy, it is not full of self-pride, does not misbehave, is unselfish, is not quick tempered, it does not think evil, it does not rejoice in sin; but it rejoices in the truth, it beareth all things, hopeth all things, and endureth all things; Love never faileth." "It is the supreme gift." Love does not impose upon its neighbors, it does not live for self alone; but lives for others as well as for self. When we love we do not think of the cost; but are willing to make a sacrifice, to help those we love." "Love is the greatest thing that God can give us, for He Himself is love; and it is the greatest thing that we can give to God, for it will also give ourselves, and carry with it all that is ours." When we have received the love of Christ in our hearts, it transforms our lives, it enables us to go forward, to overcome sin, it gives us strength for our weakness.

It is this true love that enables us to forget self, and as we forget self we enjoy real peace and happiness; for there is no burden, there is no cross, where there is no self to carry it. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Can we stand the test? Do we love? "Lovest thou Me?" May we be able to say as Peter said, "Lord, Thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love Thee."

How shall we test our love?

How shall the real be known
From that which takes its form?
Love "seeketh not her own."

X. SERVICE AND PEACE.

Jesus came into the world to work, for He said, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give His life a ransom for many." The Father works, for Jesus said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Should we not imitate Their example? Jesus said to His disciples, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." One object in calling the disciples, and having them in His training school for three years, was that they might become fishers of men. They were not trained to make money, or to shine in society; but they were trained to serve, they were taught that the more service they could render the greater they would become. Jesus was happy when He could do something to help others, He found peace and joy in His work, so will we if we follow His example. The person that is happy is the one that is busy helping some one else to bear their burden, or bringing them to the great burden bearer. There are different kinds of work in the world; we are to give our time and energy for things that count, and not for things that perish. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Labor for self and the things of the world does not bring us the peace and joy that we get from unselfish service.

We each have a work to do. "No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him. There is always work, and tools to work withal, for those who will work." God has given each of us a time to work, and we must not let the time pass without taking advantage of it. He is possibly awaiting our willingness to do certain work, in order to bless us and others. At the grave of Lazarus He waited for the friends to roll away the stone, before He raised Lazarus. There are so many stones in the way to hinder the progress of His work, and so few hands that are willing to help. Do you not think that the friends who help to roll away the stone, that Jesus might raise Lazarus, were

filled with joy when they saw him alive? So will the Christian today find great joy in his life, if he will help in the Lord's work. We should not hesitate to spend our life in service to Him who gave His life for us. We get a wonderful lesson on service from the parable of the good Samaritan, and Jesus said unto the lawyer, "Go, and do thou likewise." Jesus expects His followers to comfort the sorrowing, to feed the hungry, and to help whenever they have an opportunity.

God expects us to be faithful in using the talents He has given us. Notice just as the men were faithful in using there talents, so were there talents increased. If we are faithful in using the talents we have the Lord will bless us and give us greater things to do. If we are not faithful in doing little things we need not expect the Lord to give us great things to do. If children are not faithful in the little tasks given them, their parents do not trust them with larger and more responsible duties. "He who is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." The servants were rewarded according to there faithfulness. So we will each be rewarded according to faithfulness, and not according to our success in the eyes of men. No matter how small or how few our talents may be if we have been faithful, we shall receive that commendation, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." If we have been unfaithful, no matter how small our talents may have been; we will receive the condemnation of the unfaithful servant. It is so easy to neglect our Christian duties, some feel that it is just the duty of the ministers and officers of the church to carry on the Christian work; but if we are a part of Christ we have some part in His work. Are we faithful in taking advantage of the oportunities we have of worshipping him. We who live in a land of Bibles and churches, have a great many opportunities, and we are responsible for the way we use the opportunities. Do we realize that every time we have an opportunity to attend the services in God's house and worship Him, and do not take advantage of it, that we are failing to measure up to our responsibility? Are we faithful in attending Sabbath school, either as teacher or pupil? God has given a great many of us the opportunity to attend Sabbath School, and He is going to hold us responsible

for this opportunity. We notice that Jesus went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath as was His custom, we do not find a single instance in the life of Christ where we are told that He did not attend the Synagogue on account of the weather, or because of company, or for any other reason. If we do not want to attend church, we can find some excuse for staying away; but if we really want to go we will not let any trivial matter keep us away. Some do not attend church because they are careless and indifferent, others because they have been up late Saturday night, and would rather sleep, others would rather read the Sunday paper, and others do not go because they are too lazy to get ready and go. God expects us to give Him one day out of seven. Are we faithful in giving Him His day, or do we spend the whole seven days for self?

God expected the Jews to give Him one-tenth of their income, He surely expects Christians to do as much or more. Yet there are a great many Christians who refuse to give God as much as one-tenth. They do not realize they owe God anything; but just feel like all they have belongs to them to do as they please with. Without God's blessing we would not have anything. Unless He sent the sunshine and the rain, we could not make a grain of corn grow; unless He gave us strength of body and mind we could not make a dollar; unless He furnished us with fresh air every minute, we could not live. And after God has done so much for us we refuse to give Him as much as one-tenth of our income. God says in Mal. 3:10, 11, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of host, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room to receive it, and I will rebuke the devourer for your sake, and he shall not destroy the fruit of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." Can we not take God at His word, just give Him the tenth, and trust Him to pour out His blessing upon us. Some will say they have so little, that they can not spare one-tenth; but He has said if we bring the tithe into the store house, He will bless us. God has power to bless us financially or to withhold the blessing. If we are unfaithful in giving God the tithe of a small income, do you suppose He could trust us to give Him the tithe of a large income? I believe one reason that

so many of us are poor financially is because we refuse to give God his own, and He withholds the blessings from us. Giving to God of our means is one way we can serve Him.

We are partners with God. 1 Cor. 3:9, "For we are laborers together with God ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Some will ask the question, can not God do His work without men? God needs men, He is depending on men to help Him to carry His word into all parts of the world, men are God's distributing agents. If we believe in Jesus Christ, it is our duty to help Him in spreading the good news, to help carry to others the blessings we enjoy. Notice we are fellow-workers with Him, He does not ask us to do His work alone; but we are to work with Him, and He with us, we are to be partners in the work. Is it not a great honor to work with Jesus? We cannot do the Lord's work alone, the reason we so often fail in our work, is because we try to do it without depending on God for help, and of ourselves we can do nothing. When some Christians are asked to do some special work they say they cannot do it, they cannot of their own strength; but they fail to realize, that whenever God has a work for them to do, He will work with them and give them strength to do the work. God never asks any of His children to work alone, and He never gives them work to do without giving them strength to do the work, if they will depend on Him. If we could realize we are working together with God, we would not be so cold and indifferent toward the work of the church, we would not leave the saving of souls to someone else, we would not ask what is the least service I can do, and the smallest amount of money I can give and still pass? But we would be asking how much can I do, how much can I give? We would not get tired of hearing the church call for men to work, work, work, and the the call for money, money, money. It is because we have so little of the spirit of Christ in us, that we are so indifferent to His work, and that we pay so little heed to His last command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." "All power is given Me in heaven and in earth." We have only to link ourselves with the source of all power in order that we might have power, for the power that Jesus has was not given for Himself alone; but that we through Him might have power. If we go to Him every time we need strength for service He will give us of His strength, and we will

be able to go forward having power in our service. As the branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine, no more can we except we abide in Jesus, the vine. The secret of our fruit-bearing is our abiding in the vine. We are not trees, we cannot stand or bear fruit alone, we are only the branches. Just as the branch that is separated from the vine does not bear fruit, so we do not bear fruit when we are separated from Christ. "The more we abide with Christ and the more we allow Him to abide in us the more fruit we will bear." The branch will bear according to the sap it gets from the vine. We should not be content to just bear a little fruit, but we should so abide in Christ that we will be able to bear much fruit. "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." The greatest peace and joy come to us when we share our life with others. When we were told to abide in the vine, it meant that we were also to have fellowship with the branches, the more fellowship we have with branches the deeper we abide in the vine. The branch does not bear fruit for its self alone, neither should we; but our greatest joy and peace will come when we share the fruit with others. "The fruit of Jesus' tree is for cleansing, saving and redeeming." Our most enduring peace comes, in our being channels to feed others. When we see those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, being filled, we receive a joy and peace that nothing else can give. "Your salvation is His business; make His service your business and delight."

Jesus' first command was come, His last command was go. After we have come to Jesus, our duty is to go tell others. You remember after Phillip came to Jesus, he went and found Nathaniel, after Andrew came to Jesus he went and found Peter. This is the way the Christian church began, the disciples did personal work. I am sure the disciples were filled with great joy and peace, as they brought others to Jesus, so will we if we bring others to Him. Some one asked Lyman Beecher, what he considered the greatest thing in the Christian religion, he said, "Bringing men and women to Christ." There is no other work in the world that can compare with the work of soul winning. There is nothing that can so fill the soul with such sweet satisfaction as leading a soul to Christ. One reason so many Christians do not experience joy in their life is because they have never won a soul for Christ. They have tried to serve themselves in-

stead of helping others, a selfish person is a miserable person. Soul winning is the most fascinating work in the world. "Go and try to save a soul, and you will see how well it is worth saving, how capable it is of the most complete salvation. Not by pondering about it, nor by talking of it, but by saving it, you learn its preciousness." It may seem a little thing for us to speak to some one about their soul; but it may mean a great deal to the one we speak to. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." "Everyone wants happiness, but most people seek it by getting. It takes a long time to learn that it lies chiefly in giving."

"Give me a faithful heart —
Likeness to Thee,
That each departing day
Hence forth may see
Some work of love begun,
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderer sought and won,
Something for Thee."

XI. CONSECRATION AND PEACE.

If we wish to enjoy the greatest blessings that are in store for us we must be willing to consecrate ourselves to Jesus, to surrender ourselves into His hands. "Ye are not your own." We belong to Jesus Christ for He has bought us with His blood; but He wants us to yield ourselves to Him, and to yield so completely, that we will be able to say, "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." The consecrated life is the only life that will give us the peace and joy that our souls long for, our souls are blessed according to the completeness of our surrender to Jesus Christ. When we consecrate ourselves to God it means that we yield ourselves to Him, by the love of our hearts, and by the submission of our wills. When we do this we will certainly feel His presence in our lives, for He has promised to abide with us if we love and obey Him. Some will ask the question, how are we to know when we are consecrated? Faith comes before feeling, we are to give ourselves fully to God, and say, "Thy will be done." Just believe that He accepts that which we give Him, hold on to the promise by faith whether you feel or not. You may say, if I could just feel I would believe that I was consecrated to Him. But if we could always feel we would not need faith, we are saved by faith, and we are consecrated by faith. We must believe before we feel, if we are to honor God by our faith. The minute we have entirely surrendered our lives to Him we just believe we are His, that He has taken us, and we keep on believing. We believe when we give ourselves to Him, that He will work in us according to the good pleasure of His will.

When we completely surrender ourselves to Him, we must ask Him to reveal to us anything in our life that is contrary to His will, and we must be willing to give up the things that He reveals to us. We must be willing to say, "Thy will be done," concerning every trial, every temptation, and everything that we know is wrong. We are not able to give up these sins in our own strength; but we are to remember that Jesus has all power, and when we surrender our wills to Him, He will work in us by

His own power, and we will be able to overcome, not by our own strength, but by the power of the Spirit of God working in us.

Just as we yield our wills to Him, is He able to carry out His will in us. Jesus has given all to us and He asks that we give all to Him, He wants us to give up everything that separates us from Him. He wants us to be willing for Him to rule and reign in our lives. We should not want to go any place, where He could not go with us, or to be engaged in any business that He could not have a part. We should strive to please Him and Him alone, allowing Him to have His way in everything. We should give our whole life to Him, our body, our minds, our time, and our talents. If we will do this our souls will become thrilled with a peace that we have never experienced before, and by and by we will be able to say, "I delight to do Thy will." "'My will, not Thine be done,' turned Paradise into a desert. 'Thy will, not mine be done,' turned the desert into Paradise, and made Gethsemane the gate of heaven."

It is when we commit everything to Him that He sends His peace. If we allow worries and anxieties to stay in our hearts we will not have peace. Jesus says, "My peace, I give unto you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." When trials come to us, we must not try to bear them alone, but commit them to him, and He will give us strength to bear them. Isa. 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as the eagle; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." If we wait on the Lord when trials come, and do not depend on our own strength, we will be able to get above the trials, we will "Mount up with wings as the eagle." As we do this, earthly trials will look very small to us. The higher we mount on these wings, the more important the things above will look, and the less important the things below. As we climb a high mountain, the things below look very small, so if we wait on the Lord we will be able to rise above these earthly trials, and they will seem very small. The reason these earthly trials seem so large is because we live on the same level with them; as we wait on the Lord, we will live in a higher atmosphere, and will be able to overcome every trial. As we continue to live in this high atmosphere we can feel the presence of God, and our hearts

will be filled with peace, even when trouble comes. When we try to do things in our own strength we soon become tired; but if we wait on the Lord, we shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint. Isa. 49:28, "Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." One of the hardest things in the Christian life, is just doing cheerfully the little every-day task that falls to our lot. We become cross, tired, and discouraged with the work we are doing, we want to do big things, we want to make more progress; but if we will wait on the Lord, He will enable us to do cheerfully these little tasks.

When we try to rule and govern our own lives, we cannot have peace because we are not in harmony with God and His will. It is only when we place ourselves in His hands to be governed by Him that He fills us with His peace, "In Me ye shall have peace." Just as we live and abide in Him, will we have peace. If we do our own will and get out of harmony with God we can not have peace.

"Take me, O my Father, take me,
Take me, save me, through Thy Son;
That which Thou wouldst have me, make me,
Let Thy will in me be done.
Long from Thee my footsteps straying,
Thorny proved the way I trod;
Weary come I now, and praying —
Take me to Thy love, my God."

XII. PEACE, PERFECT PEACE.

We are told how we might have "Peace, Perfect Peace," in Isa. 26:3. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee." God does not promise to keep those in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on self, or whose mind is stayed on the world; but He has promised to keep in perfect peace, those whose mind is stayed on Him. The word mind here is interpreted by some as meaning thought or imagination. Rev. J. H. Johett, D. D. says the word mind in this verse, "Denotes the thought which deals with the forward, misty things—the things which have not taken definite shape. It is thought which concerns itself with, "What next,—and next? and next? With the succession which lies beyond the immediate day." The thing that causes so much trouble and unrest in the human heart is just wondering what is going to happen in the future. How will I get along tomorrow? What am I to do when trouble comes? We forget that God "is the same yesterday, today, and forever." If we will keep our mind on God when we are thinking of the future, He will give us grace and strength for every need. If we are trusting in our own strength we need not be surprised that our life is filled with trouble and unrest for the physical strength is weak and frail and will sooner or later fail us. Isa. 26:4. "Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." It is when we trust the Lord, Who has everlasting strength that we can have peace. There are a great many things in the world to worry us; but if we will just keep our minds on God, just think of His wondrous love, of His tender mercy, and of His everlasting strength, and trust Him, He has promised to keep us in perfect peace. A great many of our troubles are imaginary ones and if we will only look to God, they will disappear. It is only as we keep our minds stayed on God that we can keep it off things, that it ought not to be on and in perfect equilibrium.

We see, if we are to have perfect peace, we must have our minds stayed on Him, and trust Him at all times and under all circumstances. The things we have read in former chapters,

lead us up to this perfect peace. First we must not trust in self, or the things of the world, for they will fail us every time. We are to trust in God. But how are we to keep our minds on God, and trust Him, unless we know Him? We must know Him as our Heavenly Father, and know that He is all powerful. We must know Him as He is revealed by Jesus Christ, and we must know Jesus as our Saviour, for this is the first step in trusting the Father. We must know God as He is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide, and we must be filled with Him if we are to know God. We must know God as He is revealed in His word, the Bible; the more we read the Bible, the more we will know of God, and the more we can have our mind on Him and trust Him. Then prayer is one way we become acquainted with God, for prayer is our talking to God, and we must continue in prayer, if we are to have our minds stayed on God. Then it is faith in God that enables us to keep our minds on Him and trust Him. If we love God it will not be hard for us to keep our minds on Him and trust Him, for we are always thinking of and trusting those we love. Then it is as we are working for and with God, that we learn to know and trust Him. Then lastly, it is when we are perfectly consecrated to God that He keeps us in perfect peace. Someone has said, "Perfect obedience would be perfect happiness, if only we had perfect confidence in the power we were obeying." So if we are to have perfect peace we must have a perfect trust in God, a faith that will never doubt Him; and perfect obedience, our lives must be perfectly consecrated to Him, we must not hold back one thing from Him. God wants us to trust everything to Him, we are willing to make a partial surrender to Him, and to trust Him to a certain extent; but God wants us to surrender all to Him. We just like to have our own way in some things, so refuse to trust God with everything; thus we miss the perfect peace that comes from a perfect surrender and a perfect trust. We will have peace according to our faith and obedience in His revealed will; if we will do our part, God will do His part and give us perfect peace. If we hold back anything from Him, or doubt Him in the least thing, we need not expect our peace to be perfect; if we are generous in giving ourselves to Him, He will be generous in giving us His peace. We should surrender ourselves in His hand, just as the clay is in the hand of the potter. Let

Him use us, mold and shape us just as He sees best. It is only when the clay is plastic in the hand of the potter, that he is able to make of it a perfect vessel, if the clay refuses to yield to the potter's hand, the vessel is marred. So if we refuse to yield ourselves to the molding hands of God, we have marred our lives in the making, He cannot make of us a perfect vessel, neither can He give us perfect peace. If we will continue to yield ourselves to Him, following where He leads us, we will not have much time for making plans of our own.

The reason Jesus' life was so filled with peace, though He was passing through trials, was because He rendered perfect obedience to His Father's will. He was always in sweet communion with the Father, not for one instance did He allow anything on His part to come between Him and the Father. He rendered the Father perfect obedience, and thus was able to always abide in the Father's love. He says, "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." We see as we obey His commandments, and as our whole life is in harmony with His will, that we abide in His love. We cannot receive His joy and peace, unless we do His will. "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full." If we would that our joy might be full, we must so live that His joy will remain in us, it may mean self-sacrifice; but it will pay. "Self-sacrifice at the bidding of Jesus Christ, is the recipe for the highest, the most exquisite, the most god-like gladness of which the human heart is capable." If we would have perfect peace, we must render perfect obedience, and have perfect faith in a perfect God. "Your imperfect possession of this peace is all your own fault." It is because we do not always have our mind on God; and do not trust Him as we should. God has promised, and He has never yet failed to keep His promise, if we will do our part, God will do His part, and keep us in perfect peace. "You may assuredly find perfect peace, if you are resolved to do that which your Lord has plainly required, and

content that He should indeed require no more of you, than to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him."

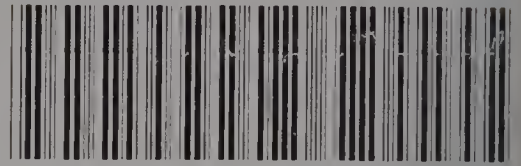
"It is not that I feel less weak, but Thou
Wilt be my strength. It is not that I see
Less sin, but more of pardoning love in Thee,
And all-sufficient grace. Enough, and now
All fluttering thought is stilled; I only rest,
And feel that Thou are near, and know that I am
blest."

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